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Marvel's new Iron Man is a woman
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Students get training to fight sexual assault

CAMPUS

UBC graduates teaching others how to intervene

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

Students at the University of British Columbia are taking it upon themselves to weed out rape culture and intervene during incidents of sexual assault and harassment.

The university's Graduate Student Society launched its Active Bystander Program on Wednesday, which is designed to train students on when and how to intervene when they come across a potential incident.

So far, the program has trained 13 volunteer students to become facilitators that will lead workshops and training sessions with other students.

Society president Gen Cruz told Metro the program was born out of the desire of grad students to do something after a series of sexual assaults on campus in the past year and stories of similar offences throughout North American universities.

"When news broke about the sexual assault cases, I think a lot of people found the situation familiar and not unusual," said Cruz. "Since then, people have become more vocal and want to address this."

Active bystander programs have been cropping up on university campuses across the continent, Cruz said.

In the program, students learn to understand the social elements that allow sexual assault to exist, how to identify situations when they witness it and are taught tactics on how to intervene.

"This is a way to empower students in uncomfortable situations, so they can say what is OK and what is not OK," said Cruz.

The program will complement UBC's official policy on sexual assault, which is in the process of being finalized.

Though currently slated to run through 2016, Cruz hopes the program picks up enough interest to continue into the future.

RAMADAN RENEWAL

Reflecting on month of fasting, tragedy and 'resetting the compass' for justice

metroNEWS

Tahia Ahmed, pictured in an East Vancouver café, says this year's Ramadan has been overshadowed. DAVID P. BALL/METRO

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metro NEWS

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Family grieves loss as feds open probe into police killing of black man. **World**

Pesticides fight taking flight

AGRICULTURE

Groups launch lawsuit against bee-killing chemicals

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

Canada's beleaguered bees may soon get their day in court, if a lawsuit launched Wednesday in federal court is approved.

Environmental groups across the country teamed up to launch the case, which is calling for a judge to overturn the federal government's approval of two controversial pesticides which they argue have decimated pollinator populations.

They've honed in on two pesticide ingredients approved by Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency — both known as "neonicotinoids," or "neonics" — Clothianidin and Thiamethoxam.

"Neonics are some of the most widely used pesticides in the world," Ecojustice lawyer Charles Hatt said in a phone interview. "They get right into the plants they're applied to — into the leaves, the pollen, the roots. They can't be washed off."

And worse, he said, they're "persistent" throughout the environment, so it's not just bees exposed to them, but aquatic invertebrates and birds.

"There's really a potential for them to cause harm broadly in ecosystems," added Hatt, who is arguing the case on behalf of two Vancouver-based groups, the Wilderness Committee and David Suzuki Foundation, as well as Friends of the Earth Canada and Ontario Nature.

Ontario recently increased its restrictions on the use of neonic-based pesticides. According to a statement released Wednesday after groups filed the lawsuit in Toronto, they hope the court will quash the decade-old approval of the two chemicals.

"We're hoping that our court case will compel the federal government to take similar action in response to widespread public concern over the fate of pollinators in Canada," stated Faisal Moola, David Suzuki Foundation's director for Ontario and Northern Canada.

The case argues that the regulator failed to consult the public, as required, before permitting the neonics from being used in agriculture, and also that it failed to heed scientific studies required on the chemicals' environmental effects.

The government has not yet responded to the court case. But some opponents of a neonics ban in the agriculture sector have argued that restricting the common pesticide ingredients would have a significant cost.

Amidst die-offs of bees worldwide that scientists have linked to neonics, however, advocates argue that farmers will be even worse-off if bees — the largest pollinator of crops — go extinct.

> **There's really a potential for them to cause harm in ecosystems.**
> Charles Hatt

A new lawsuit launched Wednesday to overturn the federal government's approval of two controversial pesticides. COLOURBOX

Cindy Chen started a fintech company called Amber Financial Services. CONTRIBUTED

'Fintech' helping immigrants find their feet

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

A Vancouver entrepreneur is helping other newcomers to Canada by starting a financial technology company that help immigrants access loans when they arrive — immigrants like Fares Toumi.

Toumi, a self-employed marketing consultant from Jordan, moved to Vancouver with his young family one year ago.

When his mother fell ill in Jordan in May, Toumi didn't have enough cash on hand to send back home for her emergency surgery. He said banks would not lend him the money because he had no credit history and few assets in Canada. "Banks were a hopeless case," he said.

Financial technology or 'fintech' companies are filling this service gap and others, creating a $13 trillion global market, according to the Digital Finance Institute, a Canadian think tank.

Cindy Chen, CEO of Richmond-based Amber Financial Services, calls fintech the 'Uber' of the banking industry.

There is a group of people, like Toumi, that should qualify for loans but don't because traditional banks only consider certain types of documentation, explained Chen, who immigrated to Vancouver from the U.S. four years ago.

Chen launched her startup four months ago and has already served about 1,000 people, including Toumi, who was able to pay for his mother's surgery, which cost more than $10,000, and is paying back the loan at a "quite reasonable" interest rate.

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Tahia Ahmed says this year's Ramadan has been overshadowed by global events.
DAVID P. BALL/METRO

Ramadan 'like resetting compass'

EID AL-FITR

Co-founders of Muslim group reflect on holy month

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

For Tahia Ahmed, this year's Ramadan — the month of daytime fasting that culminated in the holiday Eid al-Fitr on Wednesday — felt different than previous years.

Like most of the world's 1.7 billion Muslims, the 23-year-old Simon Fraser University political science graduate abstained from water and food from dawn to dusk. She shared a final Iftar meal with her family and stayed up overnight Tuesday preparing food and celebrating.

"It was really exciting," she told Metro. "We celebrate the fact that we fasted for a month, and come together as a community to share food."

But for her, the exhaustion from fasting was compounded by a string of global tragedies: 49 killed in an Orlando gay bar; more than 200 massacred by Daesh in Iraq followed by its bombing of one of Islam's holiest sites in Saudi Arabia; and rising hate crimes against Muslims in Europe and North America.

Last Friday, a 12-hour hostage standoff left 20 dead in Bangladesh, the country Ahmed's family left when she was one.

"The terrible things happening in the world seem like all there is to talk about — they're the elephant in the room," she told Metro. "Eid al-Fitr is a time of celebration. I feel like that has been robbed from us because of how close these events have been to each other."

As co-founder of the Vancouver-based group Critical Muslim Voices, she's organized public events as well as dialogues "by and for Muslims, that are safe spaces" to talk about racism, Islamophobia and other issues.

Group co-founder Hasan Alam, a 32-year-old Vancouver lawyer, said that historically the early Muslim community faced some of its greatest hardships during Ramadan.

"Ramadan is a time where traditionally you are tested emotionally, physically and mentally, and you push yourself to develop as a human being," he explained. "But it's also been incredibly spiritually nourishing, a time of intense community, and a point of healing and solace."

Ahmed said she doesn't speak for all Muslims, but said the "patience and endurance" required for fasting also strengthened her resolve to make the world a better place. "Ramadan is like resetting my compass," she explained. "To me, giving up food and water is about detaching myself from my material needs to focus on the struggle for justice."

Report: Replacing medical plan would save families money

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

Premier Christy Clark has acknowledged Medical Services Plan premiums are "antiquated." The opposition New Democratic Party thinks they're a "shell game," while groups like the Canadian Taxpayers Federation hate them.

With seemingly everyone in agreement that the current model for generating $2.5 billion for the province's health-care system isn't fair, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives released a new report Wednesday proposing a possible solution.

According to the think-tank, small income tax increases and a new business tax equivalent to what employers already pay in MSP would not only raise the same amount of revenue but also save most families money.

By using income tax instead of the flat-rate MSP to collect the money, the CCPA says a family of four with an income of $60,000 would save $1,725 a year, while a family with an income of $90,000 stands to save $1,450. Only the top six per cent of families would pay more in taxes under the proposal.

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Isis here to stay, says salon owner

NIAGARA FALLS

Some think business is linked to terror group

People continue to flock to Isis, and its leader says it is here to stay and growing bigger.

Don't be alarmed. Not that ISIS. We mean Isis, a small body-sugaring and esthetics salon, in Fonthill, a community not far from Niagara Falls.

The salon is named after the Egyptian goddess Isis, reflecting body sugaring's roots as an ancient Egyptian hair-removal process. Its name predates the prominent moniker of the extremist group, also known to many as Daesh, by about 13 years.

"Everybody knows me as Isis," says Brigitte Boucher, owner of the salon.

Boucher opened the business 15 years ago in London, Ont. then moved it to its current location about three years ago. She specializes in natural body hair removal using homemade products. You can also get a manicure, pedicure, lash extensions and a facial.

"There's no beheading going on," Boucher says. "There's a lot of hair removal."

The name of the salon has raised a few eyebrows over the past few years. Boucher says she has noticed people taking photos of the storefront, which sports the company name. She also deals with the occasional caller phoning to inquire if the business is connected to Daesh (known as the Islamic State).

This has prompted her to post a sign in the front window stating "We are not affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq Syrie (sic)" in capital letters.

Boucher said she cried when she first learned the name of the radical Islamist group a few years ago.

"I'll watch the news every once in a while, and there's an ISIS bombing and I'm like, 'Here we go. I'm gonna get a call or two,'" she says.

Reviews on Isis' Facebook page are all positive. One patron posted that she was "totally in love with Isis."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NAME CHANGES

In 2014, Halifax's Immigrant Settlement and Integration Services (ISIS) became the Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia, or ISANS.

Isis, the dog on the television drama Downton Abbey, was killed off that year amid rumours the show didn't want the canine sharing its name with the jihadist group, although producers denied that was the case.

Isis, a small body sugaring and esthetics salon in the Niagara region, has seen its business improve despite misconceptions over whether it is connected to the terrorist group, according to owner Brigitte Boucher. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

POLITICS

Kenney exit to set off the dominoes

Jason Kenney's decision not to seek the leadership of the federal Conservatives will have a domino effect on the race and the national party.

The first tile has already fallen over.

The longtime Tory MP announced his bid to lead the Alberta Progressive Conservatives on Wednesday and is already staffing up his provincial campaign with former federal aids.

Kenney is known for inspiring fierce loyalty among staff, once dubbed the "Jasonistas," and it's likely those diehards also would have followed him down the federal leadership road.

But now they'll leave the federal scene for Alberta, taking with them the tactics, the political savvy and, most importantly, thousands of contacts Kenney built up over 20 years serving in Ottawa.

"He has supporters from across Canada who will want to help him succeed in Alberta, which will draw some talent and money away from the national party in the short term," said his former cabinet colleague James Moore. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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FW-23- METRO VANCOUVER, CALGARY, EDMONTON

Shooting investigated

LOUISIANA

Police chief 'demanding answers' as video surfaces

A still from the video. AP

The U.S. Justice Department opened a civil rights investigation Wednesday into the video-recorded police killing of a black man who authorities say had a gun as he wrestled with two white officers on the pavement in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Alton Sterling, 37, was confronted by police and shot on Tuesday after an anonymous caller said he had threatened someone with a gun outside the store, where he was selling home-made CDs, authorities said.

In a cellphone video taken by a community activist and posted online, the two officers pinned Sterling to the ground, someone yelled, "He's got a gun! Gun!" and gunfire erupted moments later.

At a news conference Wednesday, Baton Rouge Police Chief Carl Dabadie Jr. said that Sterling was armed but that there are still questions about what happened.

"Like you, there is a lot that we do not understand … I am demanding answers," Dabadie said.

The officers, identified by the chief as Blane Salamoni, a four-year member of the department, and Howie Lake II, who has been on the force for three years, were placed on administrative leave, standard department procedure.

Authorities would not say whether one or both fired their weapons or how many times.

Gov. John Bel Edwards and the U.S. Justice Department announced the investigation by the department's civil rights division.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DYNAMIC DUO CLINTON, OBAMA CAMPAIGN TOGETHER Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton walks off of Air Force One with U.S. president Barack Obama on Tuesday in Charlotte, North Carolina, where they made their first joint campaign appearance. The Clinton campaign hopes Obama can reassure voters about her experience, talent and character — and speak to their questions about her honesty and trustworthiness, some of which stem from the FBI's email investigation. GETTY IMAGES

COMIC BOOKS

The new Woman of Iron

Colin McNeil
Metro | Toronto

A female Thor, a black Captain America, a Latino Spider-Man and now, Iron (formally) Man.

The new face of Iron Man. CONTRIBUTED

Marvel Comics' push for a superhero roster that better represents their readers continues with the upcoming launch of Riri Williams — the new face of Iron Man (she's still working on the name).

Williams, a 15-year-old student, suits up in Invincible Iron Man No. 1, apparently with Tony Stark's blessing. The girl genius catches the attention of the Stark after she reverse-engineers an Iron Man suit and builds her own version.

So what happened to Tony?

"We're in the middle of a very big Tony Stark storyline," said Invincible Iron Man author Brian Michael Bendis.

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, July 7, 2016

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
ON THE SEX HARASSMENT CLAIMS AGAINST FOX'S CHAIRMAN

While it's everyone's "issue," sexual harassment and assault are often only women's problems. This is why Gretchen Carlson's lawsuit is so powerful, and career-risking.

If journalists took the whole "people in glass houses" motto seriously, newspapers, websites, video reels and radio stations would be blank, empty, silent spaces.

Papers that rail against unfair working conditions deny their own employees overtime pay.

Outlets that decry white male workplaces are some of the white-est, male-est offices around.

This industry, which gets paid to call bulls--t on everything and everyone it sees, is full of it.

And of course it is. No job exists outside our culture. And our culture is full of it, too.

So no woman in media (or elsewhere) was likely surprised when Gretchen Carlson, a former anchor for Fox News in the U.S., revealed a series of cases of career-related sexual harassment in a Huffington Post op-ed yesterday.

But the article was a mere side-note to the real breaking news, which shocked the U.S. media world: a sexual harassment lawsuit filed by Carlson against the media mogul and Fox chairman Roger Ailes.

Of course, that a wealthy, powerful media baron would sexually harass his employees is in no way surprising. But it's almost incredible that Carlson has outed him (allegedly) in such a public way. So often sexual assault cases in workplaces are handled quietly, if at all, especially when the accused is in charge. And Ailes' power probably can't be understated, though the New York Times described him this way: "a towering figure in television and Republican politics who has overseen virtually every aspect of Fox News Channel over the cable network's hugely successful two-decade run."

So often sexual assault cases in workplaces are handled quietly, if at all, especially when the accused is in charge.

Former Fox News host Gretchen Carlson has filed a lawsuit against the CEO and chairman of Fox News, Roger Ailes, for sexual harassment and retaliation. GETTY IMAGES

The quotes attributed to Ailes in the lawsuit are comically direct: "I think you and I should have had a sexual relationship a long time ago and then you'd be good and better and I'd be good and better," Carlson alleges Ailes told her.

It's an amazingly succinct and stunningly blatant summation of what's long been a more insinuated scenario for women in the media, or anywhere, really. When Carlson didn't engage in such a relationship, she alleges, she was downgraded, and then let go. Just like she'd been warned.

In her Huffington Post piece, Carlson urged readers to think of sexual harassment/assault as more than a "woman's issue." Since men are more commonly sexual aggressors, this is factually true. But while it's everyone's "issue," sexual harassment and assault are often only women's problems. This is why Carlson's lawsuit is so powerful, and career-risking. It's why she deserves kudos, and why workplaces won't change without women who are willing to fight.

Forget the bigots — there's good reason to oppose trade deals

Linda McQuaig
Torstar News Service

The decision of British voters to leave Europe has been treated as evidence that they're intolerant xenophobes keen to seal themselves off from the world. That Donald Trump is on their side only helps make the case that they represent a boorish throwback, a desire to make the English-speaking world great again by turning it into a giant gated community surrounded by sky-high walls.

Having such a collection of bigots and boors opposing "globalization" may turn out to be a boon for those promoting globalization — that is, the laws that govern the global economy.

This is unfortunate, since these laws — and the international trade deals that enforce them — have delivered benefits almost exclusively to those at the top in recent years, and should be thoroughly overhauled.

But with Neanderthal wall-builders lurking in the background, it may be easier for the Trudeau government to convince Canadians to accept these badly flawed and increasingly unpopular trade deals as part of living in an open, modern world.

U.S. President Barack Obama helped make this case in his address to Parliament last week, urging us to resist "sealing ourselves off from the world," as he derided opposition to foreigners and opposition to international trade deals with the same broad brush.

There's a litany of reasons why any sensible person would resist these trade deals.

But the most outrageous aspect of them has always been the special set of legal rights they bestow on foreign corporations and investors. These rights enable wealthy foreigners to sue governments over policies the foreigners don't like, and to have their lawsuits decided by closed tribunals.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), rather than removing this indefensible, anti-democratic set of rights for wealthy foreigners, actually extends them.

Indeed, the TPP could open a floodgate of new claims by wealthy foreigners, according to a powerful report by Osgoode Hall law professor Gus Van Harten. The report documents how corporations and wealthy investors have taken advantage of the bizarrely generous legal rights available to them under NAFTA, suing Canada 39 times and winning more than $190 million in compensation from Canadian taxpayers. There is no cap on how high the compensation can be, and the vast majority of it goes to the ultra-rich.

Let's not forget what it is these foreign interests are objecting to: laws passed by democratically elected governments to protect the public. For instance, Lone Pine Resources challenged fracking regulations in Canada; just last month, TransCanada sued the United States for $15 billion to compensate for Obama's decision not to approve the Keystone pipeline.

The Trudeau government will no doubt fill us with dark Brexit and Trumpian images to warm us up to the TPP. But not even revulsion for Donald Trump will provide enough lipstick to pretty up this pig.

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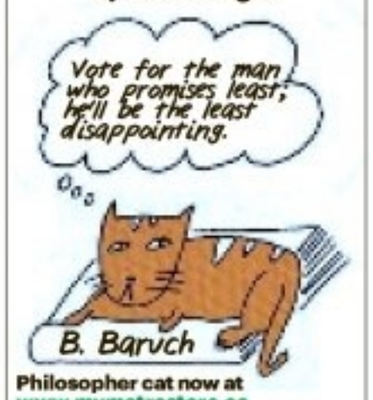

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metro LIFE

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"I saw my size as being an advantage, whereas so many women see it as a disadvantage"

Rebel Wilson tells Britain's Telegraph newspaper her weight has helped her career

OITNB's Poussey riot

Samira Wiley played fan-favourite Poussey Washington on the prison drama Orange is the New Black. PHOTOS COURTESY NETFLIX

NETFLIX

Actress Samira Wiley dishes on her role in Season 4

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

SPOILER ALERT: This article contains Orange is the New Black Season 4 spoilers!

Samira Wiley, who played fan-favourite Poussey Washington on the prison drama Orange is the New Black, wants you to know one thing, "Samira is alive!"

Since her character's shocking death near the end of the fourth season, fans have been leaving strange messages on social media for her.

"I get a lot of comments on social media when I tweet something or I post a picture," she says. "People are like, 'I'm really happy you're posting so I know you're alive.' Yes, I am. I haven't gone anywhere."

The Juilliard-trained actress appeared in 50 episodes of the acclaimed Netflix series, bringing Poussey to vivid life. Dealing marijuana earned the character a stretch at Litchfield Penitentiary — "We all in here because we took a wrong turn going to church," Poussey joked — where she was an outspoken and caring woman who stood by her convictions.

"Poussey is really like an ideal person," says Wiley. "I've said this before, she is such a great friend and a great person sometimes when I don't know what to do or want to be better in a certain situation I think, 'What would Poussey do?' She had a great heart. A great moral centre and a great smile. She is someone that you look up to.

"I feel so, so honoured and privileged to give her life and to give people the strong feelings they have about her."

Based on Piper Kerman's memoir about her experiences in a women's prison, the series has been a commercial hit and critical success for its candid depictions of race, sexuality and gender.

"I think the show in general has ushered in a new era of television," says the actress, who will next be seen on the comedy series You're the Worst.

"Orange is the New Black shows you different kinds of women, different shapes of women, different backgrounds of people. The barriers are less and in some ways invisible because that is you, or your mom or your sister. I feel really proud to be part of the television show that started that.

"With Season 4, I think we really amped it up a notch in terms of reflecting not only the people we see everyday but the issues we deal with everyday, specifically Black Lives Matter. We're showing some responsibility as artists, as creators of this television show, because we need to reflect what is going on in our time. That is our responsibility."

As Wiley's former cast mates gear up to begin shooting season five of OITNB, she says she's not up to date on the storyline.

"I think it might be too difficult for me to binge," she says. "I don't anticipate it. After most seasons, especially the third season I definitely binge-watched immediately. I thought I would be able to do that this time but I have only watched about half this season."

She stopped before Poussey is accidentally suffocated during a demonstration in the prison cafeteria.

"I haven't watched it yet. In a way I feel like actually watching it will be me really saying goodbye and I am not ready for that yet. I can't do that yet."

JOHANNA SCHNELLER
WHAT I'M WATCHING

Twist a plea for prison reform

THE SHOW: Orange is the New Black, S4, E12 (Netflix)
THE MOMENT: The Time Machine

Prison inmates Poussey (Samira Wiley) and Brook (Kimiko Glenn) dance without music inside a makeshift cardboard time machine. Their prison is in chaos, overcrowded and under new, nastier management.

"This feels like the most normal thing I've done in a while," Poussey says.

"It feels like we're in a horror movie," Brook says.

"The kind you used to watch on sleepovers," Poussey adds, "where you have to run to your mom at the end, to hug you, tell you it was all made up."

"My mom wasn't a big hugger," Brook says.

"My mom was," Poussey says. (Alert: Major spoiler ahead.)

Every now and then, the theme and purpose of a series comes together in a plot point, and this is one of those times. OITNB is a long, heartfelt plea for prison reform, and this — Poussey's last happy moment before dying in a chokehold — is an example of what showrunner Jenji Kohan is all about.

This sweet girl, arrested for possession of half an ounce of marijuana, should not be in prison. There should be a better solution for her. But as Kohan seeds throughout this season, the system is designed only one way, to grind people down. It's gutsy of Kohan to sacrifice a great character to make her greater point.

So in the next episode, when prison manager Caputo (Nick Sandow) defends the guard who killed Poussey, it's heinous, but also understandable. One promising life was wasted. He doesn't want to waste another. It's all so hugely sad.

This sweet girl, arrested for possession of half an ounce of marijuana, shouldn't be in prison — but as showrunner Jenji Kohan points out, the system is designed to grind people down.

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Her music saved my life: DMC

MEMOIR

Early rapper credits Sarah McLachlin for his survival

Twelve years after kicking addiction issues fuelled by deep depression, Darryl McDaniels of pioneering rap group Run-DMC says he's feeling "really incredible." And he credits Canadian singer-songwriter Sarah McLachlan's music with saving his life.

On Tuesday, McDaniels released his new memoir, Ten Ways Not to Commit Suicide. He's also working on a full-length heavy-metal album as well as a collaboration album with acts including Canada's Sum 41.

Like his book, the heavy-metal album due out in September "is a no-holds-barred" account about the emotions of alcoholism and depression, he said in a recent phone interview.

"Suicidal folk, depressed people, they think they're alone, but they don't realize there's a million other people just like us," said the Queens, N.Y., native, known as the Devastating Mic Controller (DMC).

"If I can put out the message that I'm DMC, the mightiest thing to ever happen to music — I am the king of rock, there is none higher, sucka MCs will call me sire to burn my kingdom, you must use fire, I won't stop rockin' till I retire — and I'm no different than you," he continued, citing the lyrics to the group's hit King of Rock.

As McDaniels writes in his tell-all memoir, he used alcohol as a confidence booster onstage and off in the '80s and '90s, as Run-DMC climbed the charts with the songs It's Like That, Sucker M.C.'s and Rock Box.

> **You're a god to me. Your music keeps me alive every day.**
> Darryl "DMC" McDaniels to Sarah McLachlin

He also suffered from depression and was at his suicidal worst in 1997, when he wanted to kill himself every day while on tour in Japan.

McLachlan's hit Angel was the only thing that "buoyed" him during that time.

"It was hearing her song on the radio, that hit something and said, 'D, life could really eff up, but if this song exists in this form, it's good to be alive,'" he said.

"So I just listened to that song every day for, like, a whole year."

McDaniels, 52, met McLachlan in person at a Clive Davis Grammy party later that year. He told her: "You're a god to me. Your music keeps me alive every day."

"She was, like, 'Wow, thank you for telling me that because that's what music is supposed to do,'" he recalled. "So her song saved my life."

McDaniels' book also touches on issues he faced with Run-DMC member Joseph Simmons, a.k.a. Rev. Run, and producer Russell Simmons.

He said he hasn't been close to them since the group's DJ, Jam Master Jay, was shot dead in 2002.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Darryl "DMC" McDaniels's memoir about his alcoholism and depression was released this week.

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Winters takes off in turbulent times

INTERVIEW

Author's new novel wrestles with America's race problem

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

As Ben H. Winters finished writing the final book in his award-winning Last Policeman mystery trilogy in 2013, he was already anxiously thinking ahead to what his next project might be. Meanwhile, the Indiana writer was also feeling distressed over the killing of Trayvon Martin by George Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch volunteer, in Florida, and the deaths of other young African Americans by police across the country.

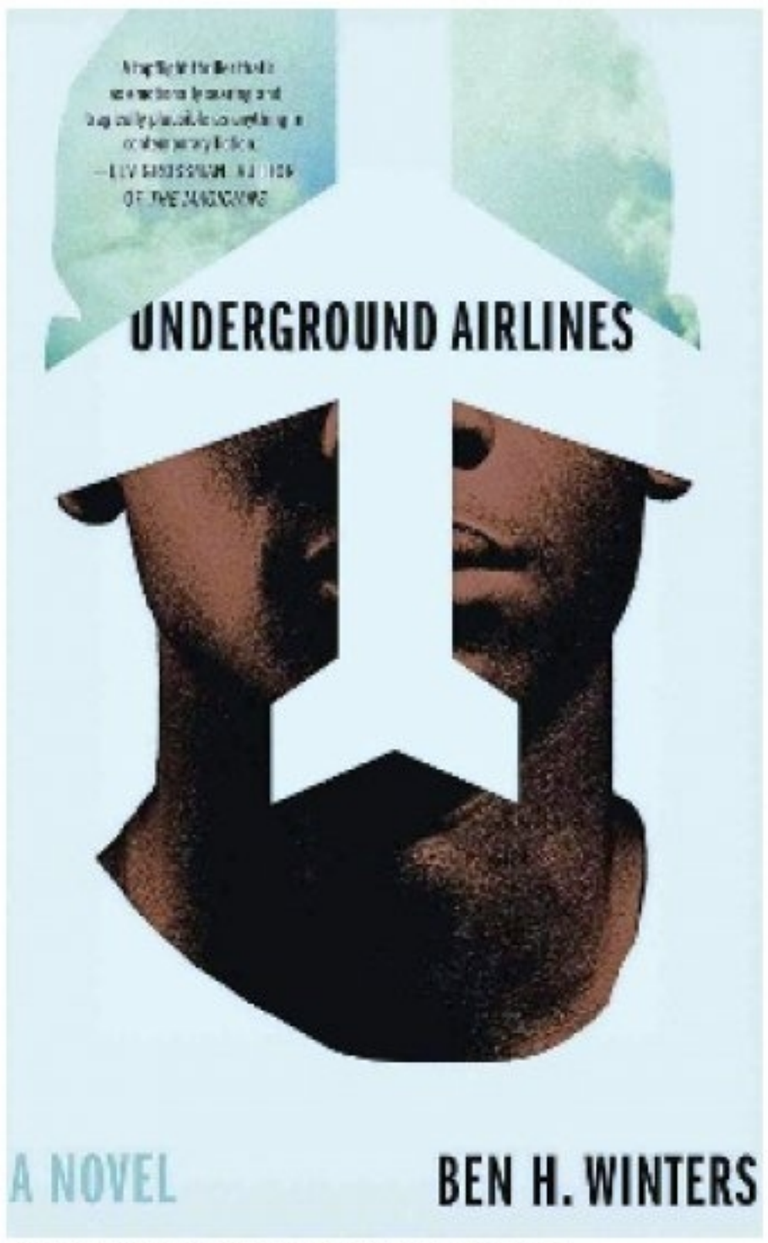
"It had become such a prevalent part of the national consciousness," says Winters. "As an American citizen, it was impossible not to be thinking about it all the time and wondering how this could possibly be happening."

Winters knew he wanted to use a hybrid of mystery and science-fiction genres to examine institutional racism in the U.S., and so his new novel was born, Underground Airlines, where he imagines a dystopian world in which the American Civil War has never happened and slavery still exists in Hard Four states.

The story follows Victor, an escaped slave turned bounty hunter looking for a runaway named Jackdaw, which leads to him becoming embroiled in a much larger conspiracy.

"It continues to strike me that in America there is this very specific backstory that is connected to race-based slavery," says Winters. "People like to think it happened long ago, like some kind of ancient phenomenon we put behind us, but in fact there are a million ways that the legacy of slavery forms contemporary racism."

In Underground Airlines, there are still Starbucks and CNN. Michael Jackson and Muhammad Ali remain stars (with revised biographies), and corporate greed and capitalism still reigns. But in Winters' alternate history, James Brown is an escaped slave living in Canada, and Henry Kissinger is quoted as denouncing the United Nations. As a self-declared "history and legal-scholar nerd," Winters spent a lot of time both researching and speculating how his premise would have played out internationally, and changed the U.S.'s role on the world stage.



Ben H. Winters' new novel is a hybrid of genres.

He admits wrestling with the appropriateness of a white male author writing a race-relations story with an African American protagonist, but came to the conclusion that it's important for artists like himself to draw attention to anti-black racism issues.

"I'm very aware that there will be some questions about my motives and the appropriateness of the material, and the only way I can answer that is if when people read the book, they realize it's not exploitative," Winters says. "There is a long and complicated history of white artists appropriating black voices. The only answer to that was to be honest and to think about how I'm going to write about this specific man, and his specific struggle, his specific back story.

"To think that black and white people are so different that the bridge of empathy that fiction is can't cross it is just dangerous thinking."

Underground Airlines concludes with a blockbuster surprise, but is also with cautious optimism. "I'm not giving up on my country. America has so many great things about it, and we've come so far, but continuing to move forward requires us to better understand our history than we think we do," says Winters.

"To think that black and white people are so different that the bridge of empathy that fiction is can't cross it is just dangerous thinking."
Author Ben H. Winters

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

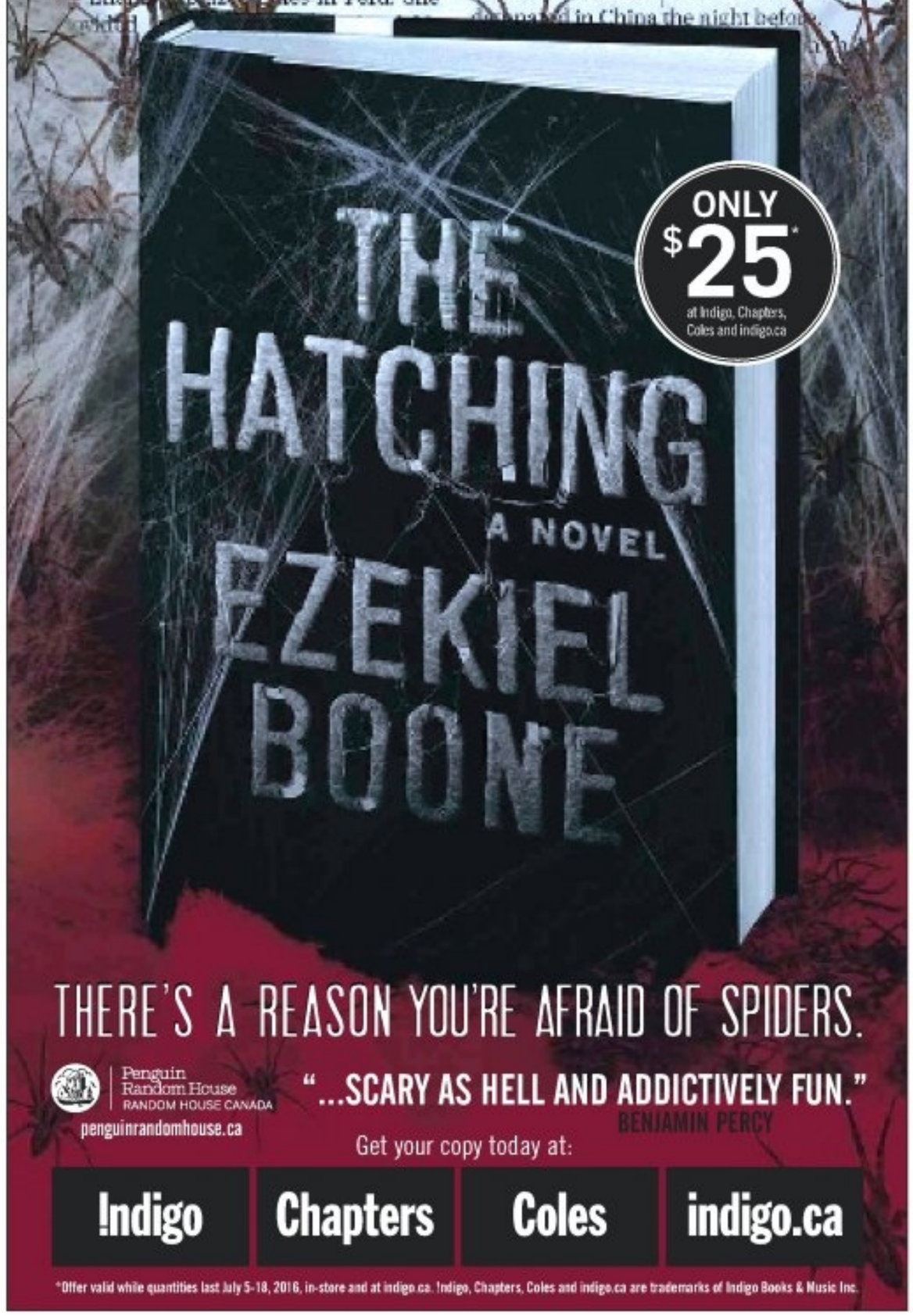
10,000-Year-Old Spider Eggs Hatch

WASHINGTON, DC

Ancient spider eggs found in Peru hatch in university lab

Students in American University's graduate lab received a strange gift on Wednesday—a 10,000-year-old box from Peru containing what appeared to be calcified spider eggs. They were shocked when the eggs—also 10,000 years old—began to hatch.

Julie Yoo, a graduate student at the lab supervised by Yale alum Professor Melanie Culver, received a call from an unidentified source on Thursday, claiming to have found the box at a dig near the Infamous Blazed Lakes in Peru. She added [illegible] Professor [illegible], who was previously married to White House Chief of Staff Manny [illegible], declined to comment except to say that she was eager to examine the shell once the hatching was complete, but an additional source from the lab who wished to remain anonymous described the spider egg sac, which has been recorded on HD video since the first indications of hatching, as both "vibrating" and "humming" as well as describing the size as far larger than average spider egg sacs. "It was bigger than a softball," our source said. "Possibly the size of a small melon. It was hard, possibly calcified, and had an unusual chalky feeling. It was hot to the touch." The attention paid to what should be a scientific impossibility has been far less than expected due to the nuclear bomb detonated in China the night before.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REAL ESTATE

Miranda Lambert's bed and breakfast closes in Oklahoma

Country singer Miranda Lambert has shut down her bed-and-breakfast in rural Oklahoma about a month after she closed her clothing boutique in the town where she once lived with ex-husband Blake Shelton.

According to a notice on its website, The Ladysmith Bed & Breakfast in Tishomingo is closed because it is "under new management." The move comes after Lambert closed her Pink Pistol boutique in the town of 3,000 residents about 115 miles southeast of Oklahoma City.

The Ladysmith's phone number was disconnected as of Wednesday morning.

Shelton said in May that he bought the Pink Pistol property and that "something is brewing for the space," but no details have been announced.

Shelton and Lambert divorced last year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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PARIS COUTURE

Ellie Saab goes for classic look

One highlight of the **Elie Saab Haute Couture Fall/Winter 2016-2017 show** at Paris Fashion Week was this mother-daughter couture ensemble. PASCAL LE SEGRETAIN/GETTY IMAGES

Paris couture week reached a creative climax Wednesday. Old-school Hollywood glamour was back in vogue at Elie Saab's fall collection.

It injected the fashion calendar with the most archetypally couture show seen all season.

Saab, like other couture masters, plays by his own rules and need not pay heed to the wearable trends of the season.

Split-leg, floor-length sensuality was the order of the day.

A velvet royal blue evening gown was given a twist, with asymmetrical feather-like detailing at the shoulder and waist.

It complemented a brooding palette of dark and often sheer materials with the signature Saab cinch-waisted hourglass va-va-voom silhouettes.

One highlight was a mother and daughter couture ensemble in grey, modelled simultaneously.

Flashes of Art Nouveau patterning were the season's added ingredient, evoking the graphic sensuality of Gustav Klimt.

The creative musing reached its climax in a traffic-stopping floor-length textured ballgown. It had fashion insiders reaching for their cameras with its blissful couture embroidering of thousands of blue and cream flowers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro HOME

Your essential daily news

The "she shed" — a lighter, brighter version of a man cave — is becoming more popular

MEET THE CONDO

Go west, it's peaceful there

WEST 7TH

CONTRIBUTED

Project overview

West 7th is a project by Green Oak Development, slated to open for occupancy next April. The four-storey concrete condo, situated in Vancouver's Kitsilano neighbourhood, is made up of 17 units, including four penthouses. Units are selling fast though — only five remain.

Housing amenities

Residents are invited to use the in-house design services to customize the space to suit their needs. Open floor plans, light furnishings and spacious balconies create an airy atmosphere. Each unit comes with a den and a parking space. There's also a storage area for bicycles.

Location and transit

The condominium is peacefully tucked away, yet central, with most amenities within walking distance. It's 10 minutes from downtown Vancouver by car and 15 by bike. Connections to the SkyTrain and various bus lines — West 4th Avenue and Broadway have access to more than nine bus lines, one of which is the B-Line — are also within reach.

In the neighbourhood

West 7th is located on a quiet, tree-lined street that separates residents from the bustling West 4th Avenue and Broadway nearby. The Kitsilano area offers locals a selection of shops, restaurants and services, not to mention some spectacular beaches just a few steps away. TEREZA VERENCA/METRO

NEED TO KNOW

What: West 7th
Builder/developer: Green Oak Development.
Designer: False Creek Design Group
Location: Vancouver
Building: Four-storey concrete condo
Sizing: Contact sales team
Pricing: Contact sales team
Model: One-, two- and three-bedroom options
Status: Pre-sales/under construction
Occupancy: April 2017
Sales Centre: 4445 West 10th Ave., Vancouver
Phone: 604-428-0588
Website: greenoakdynasty.com/west7

A striking staircase designed by the New York-based design firm Bradfield & Tobin which has leather treads on the stairs rather than traditional carpet. SEAN FINNIGAN/BRADFIELD & TOBIN VIA AP

ASK A DESIGNER

How to create the stairway from heaven

We give lots of thought to decorating rooms but often overlook the staircase, despite the fact that in many homes it's the first thing people see when they walk in the door.

Staircase areas can be "a great spot to introduce your personal style," says Brian Patrick Flynn, who designed HGTV's Dream Home 2016, the design network's annual house giveaway.

Here, Flynn and designer Roric Tobin of the New York design firm B&T Global share advice on creating an inviting, stylish staircase that blends with the rest of a home's decor.

Assess the banister

It doesn't have to be expensive to replace a boring bannister with something snappier.

"If it's something historical that has beauty, there's no sense in ripping it out," Tobin says. But if it doesn't serve the space, change it. Or consider painting or otherwise updating the banister.

Showcase your favourites

"Stairwells, often considered dead space, are ideal for showcasing collections," says Flynn. "I prefer to mix different frames in a variety of wood finishes and metals, and then throw in three-dimensional objects as well to break up the rigid lines.

"When all else fails, I say stick with black-and-white photos."

Embrace bold patterns and colour

Tobin recommends using bold, large-scale print wall coverings to "really draw your eye up the staircase."

Homeowners often assume that small-print patterns will look best, he says, but they can be boring.

Blend style and function

Runners and stair treads are another place to add colour or pattern.

"Stairwell runners in masculine prints are becoming popular in all sorts of homes," says Flynn.

And they serve a practical purpose: Bare wood can look good but be noisy and slippery. Most of Tobin's clients opt for stair runners or treads to eliminate noise.

These are traditionally made of carpet, but Tobin suggests considering other materials. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'IT ONLY TAKES A SECOND' HOME HAZARDS

Spooked by the recall of millions of IKEA dressers that pose a tip-over hazard if they're not properly anchored, parents everywhere are taking a second look at their child-proofing chops. Tracey Warren, director of Child Safe Canada has a solution: Put more than a few seconds' worth of obstacles between your little ones and danger. **Here are five often-overlooked hazards you can minimize.** GENNA BUCK/METRO CANADA

1 DOORS & WINDOWS

Opening the doors and windows to catch a breeze might keep you cool, but it's a hidden-in-plain-sight hazard to small children apt to wander out, Warren said. So keep the door closed and put an obstacle in front of it that will slow kids down — even something as simple as boots. Make sure your windows are secure too (but not permanently nailed shut: fire hazard), and don't place furniture under them.

2 WATER

Kids under five have a natural, unquashable desire to explore and climb on everything. It's not just pools and hot tubs: Toddlers have been known to topple into puddles, toilets, cleaning buckets and kitchen sinks full of dishwater, Warren said — so never leave standing water unattended.

3 FITNESS EQUIPMENT

Kids can fly off a treadmill or get entangled in an elliptical. Don't leave the key in the lock, and if there's no way to secure the machine to prevent little fingers from mashing the "start" button, consider making the room it's in off-limits. Better yet, do both. That's what Warren calls "layers of safety."

5 DRIVEWAY

Remind kids often that the driveway is a "drive zone," never a "play zone." Backing over children is tragically common. Warren said it has happened three times so far this season in Calgary, where she's based. It's best to back in and pull out. And exit the driveway with the windows down, so you can hear if someone's trying to alert you that you're about to make a fatal mistake.

4 DRUGS & COSMETICS

Warren suggests getting down to toddler-eye level and looking at your home the way your child sees it. What's in their reach? Kids are attracted to makeup's bright colours and easy-to-open packages, and they shouldn't be eating it. Grandma visiting? Purses or suitcases carelessly tossed on the floor or bed could have medication inside. Again with the safety layers: Keep poisons, like cleaning products and drugs, in a locked cupboard that's also up high.

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Get a front row seat for the Celebration

The summer fireworks are an iconic Vancouver event.

The three Honda Celebration of Light fireworks evenings bring families, couples and friends from all over Metro Vancouver together to enjoy a major spectacle.

On the nights of the events, the sense of excitement is palpable, says Tim Hopkins, producer of the Honda Celebration of Light.

"A lot of people look forward to this fireworks series all year. It may be Vancouver's most defining public event," he says. "And that positive energy is in the air."

Three premier ticketed areas at English Bay give viewers front row seats to the action.

The YVR Observation Deck is a grandstand seating area on English Bay Beach that's reserved just for ticket holders. It looks straight out onto the beach, the water and the fireworks barge beyond, where the pyrotechnic engineers will make the magic happen.

The area is licensed, so guests can enjoy beer or wine as they watch the show. Nonalcoholic seating is also available.

Tickets are $49 per person and visitors are welcome to arrive after 6:30 p.m.

"The YVR Observation Deck usually sells out pretty early," says Hopkins. Just a few tickets are still available for the July 30 show.

Tickets allow visitors to leave and return to the venue, so they can enjoy a walk around English Bay Beach, check out the boutiques and businesses along Denman and Davie, and pick up a bite to eat from one of the 50 food trucks that will be parked in the area.

"We get everyone from corporate groups unwinding together after a day at the office, to families looking for a unique experience to share with their kids," says Hopkins.

Group discounts are available.

"The ticketed viewing areas at English Bay have all the elements for a great event in one place: food, family and great music — and of course, the fireworks!" says Hopkins.

ISTOCK

ISTOCK

Mark your calendar

Have you ever had that moment when you're sitting in your home at night in the summer, then you see the mountains flash with light and hear the exciting cracks and booms of fireworks in the distance, only to remember that you forgot to mark your calendar for the fireworks this year?

Don't miss out this year. Here's when to go:
Saturday, July 23 – The Netherlands
Wednesday, July 27 – Australia
Saturday, July 30 – U.S.A.

Location: English Bay, Vancouver

Fireworks and music simulcast start at 10 p.m.

To find out more or to purchase tickets to the three premier viewing experiences on English Bay Beach, visit hondacelebrationoflight.com.

A high-end, beachside viewing experience

The fireworks are the perfect occasion to raise a glass on a patio.

If you're looking for a more refined atmosphere to watch the Honda Celebration of Light fireworks, it doesn't get any better than the two ticketed viewing lounges on English Bay Beach: The Keg Lounge and the Inukshuk Lounge.

"Couples and those who are looking for a more intimate atmosphere and personalized experience will appreciate the lounges," says Tim Hopkins, producer of the Honda Celebration of Light.

ISTOCK

Located on top of the English Bay bathhouse, The Keg Lounge is the place to go if you're looking for one spot to enjoy fine food and drinks in a social lounge atmosphere.

A ticket to The Keg Lounge for an evening starts at $179 per person, and includes appies from The Keg all night, plus two cocktails. Guests are encouraged to arrive between 6:30 and 10 p.m., when the fireworks show starts.

Before the main event, guests can enjoy live music too. A stage area in the lounge will host Shorefest, a set of live musical performances, including Canadian greats Loverboy and Trooper.

The Keg Lounge is also where the panel of judges for the Honda Celebration of Light will be seated, so guests can watch them in action.

"The Keg Lounge tickets are already sold out for July 30, but some are still available for the remaining fireworks evenings," says Hopkins.

Or watch the Honda Celebration of Light from the Inukshuk Lounge, an outdoor viewing area located on the peninsula just east of English Bay Beach, next to the Inukshuk statue.

"The Inukshuk Lounge provides some of the best seats in the house," says Hopkins. "These are the closest seats you can get to the barge. You're almost right down by the beach looking right across the water — and it's a chill, family-friendly atmosphere."

Tickets for the Inukshuk Lounge are $169 per person, including food and two drinks.

"The private, ticketed viewing areas will elevate your fireworks experience," Hopkins says.

metro SPORT

Blue Jays pitcher Marco Estrada pulled out of the All-Star Game and went on the 15-day DL with a back injury on Wednesday

Cristiano rises above

EURO 2016
SEMIFINALS

Superstar brings A-game as Portugal end Wales' hopes

Cristiano Ronaldo upstaged Gareth Bale to propel Portugal into its second European Championship final, scoring a thumping header and then setting up Nani's goal in a 2-0 win over Wales on Wednesday.

The goals came in the span of three minutes early in the second half in Lyon, helping end Wales' unlikely run to the semifinals in only its second ever major tournament.

Ronaldo equalled France great Michel Platini's record of nine goals in European Championship soccer when he timed a prodigious leap to perfection and planted home a header in the 50th minute.

The Real Madrid star then sent in a long-range shot that a sliding Nani diverted into the net from 10 metres.

Ronaldo — a serial winner in individual and team prizes in club football — will get another chance to win his first trophy on the international stage against either France or Germany in Sunday's final at the Stade de France in Paris.

"It's what we have dreamt of since the beginning," Ronaldo said. "We knew it would be a long road and we're still in the tournament."

Portugal last competed in a final at Euro 2004, when the team surprisingly lost on home soil to Greece. A 19-year-old Ronaldo shed tears after that match, but he has managed to lead a much weaker side to another international showpiece.

Ronaldo shared a long conversation with Bale after the final whistle and the Madrid teammates embraced. This could have been the match where Bale emerged from Ronaldo's shadow, but that will have to wait.

Cristiano Ronaldo scored the first goal off a header and set up the second. PAUL ELLIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

WEDNESDAY In Lyon

2 0

"We have no regrets. We're a proud nation and proud of what we achieved."
Gareth Bale

"It's very disappointing to be so close to the final," Bale said, "but we have to be proud. This is a proud moment for us, we have achieved a lot."

Competing in its first tournament since the 1958 World Cup, Wales — a rugby-mad nation of three million people — has been one of the most popular stories of Euro 2016, topping its group and then beating highly fancied Belgium in the quarter-finals.

But the Welsh had no response to the successive blows dealt by Ronaldo after a turgid first half that had only really been illuminated by a couple of surging runs from Bale.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WIMBLEDON

Raonic gets another chance at Federer

Milos Raonic beat Sam Querrey in four sets Thursday to reach the Wimbledon semifinals for the second time and make it to the final four at a Grand Slam for the third time.

The sixth-seeded Canadian lost serve only once and downed the No. 28-seeded Querrey 6-4, 7-5, 5-7, 6-4 on No. 1 Court.

Raonic registered 13 aces and 58 winners, and had just 16 unforced errors compared to the 44 he had in his fourth-round win over David Goffin.

"I'm glad I was able to get back on my right path and get the win," Raonic said on Wimbledon's official website.

Milos Raonic
GETTY IMAGES

Raonic, who has added John McEnroe to his coaching team this year, will play Roger Federer in the semifinals on Friday.

Federer was down two sets to Marin Cilic before rallying for a 6-7 (4), 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (9), 6-3 win.

Federer holds a 9-2 edge in head-to-head meetings with Raonic. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Wade going home to Chicago to play for Bulls

Dwyane Wade is leaving the Miami Heat after 13 seasons to go home and sign with the Chicago Bulls.

Wade, who called it "an extremely emotional and tough decision" on Wednesday night, will sign a two-year deal with the Bulls, one that will pay him about $47 million.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saunders leads Blue Jays to sweep of Royals

Michael Saunders hit a solo home run and then added a tiebreaking RBI double as the Blue Jays held on for a 4-2 win over the Kansas City Royals on Wednesday in Toronto.

The Jays, who have won five straight games, swept the three-game series.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jones removed from UFC 200 after positive test

UFC interim light heavyweight champion Jon Jones has been notified of a potential doping violation, ruling him out of his bout with Daniel Cormier in the main event of UFC 200.

UFC president Dana White announced the dramatic change Wednesday night, three days before the mixed martial arts promotion's landmark show.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Messi gets 21-month prison sentence

Lionel Messi and his father were sentenced to 21 months in prison for tax fraud by a Barcelona-based court on Wednesday, with both sentences likely to be suspended.

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RECIPE Shrimp and Vegetable Spaghetti

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Ready in
Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes

Ingredients
- 1 yellow zucchini, sliced
- 2 portobello mushrooms, stems removed, cut crosswise into slices
- 1 red pepper, sliced into quarters
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 2 Tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 4 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 Tbsp fresh chopped oregano
- 1 Tbsp fresh chopped rosemary
- 1 Tbsp butter
- 1 lb thawed peeled deveined shrimp
- 1 box of spaghetti
- 2 large tomatoes, sliced
- 1 container marinated artichoke hearts, plus a drizzle of its oil
- 1 cup feta cheese
- 1 handful fresh chopped basil

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 F. Toss the zucchini, mushrooms and red pepper with 2 Tbsp of olive oil, balsamic vinegar, 2 cloves of garlic, oregano and rosemary to coat. Place vegetables on greased pan and roast in oven; turn vegetables once and cook until tender, about 30 minutes. Remove and allow to cool slightly. Slice the vegetables into bite size pieces.

2. In a skillet over medium heat, add butter and two cloves of garlic and cook until aromatic. Add the shrimp and cook until they are pink, about 5 minutes. Remove and set aside.

3. Cook pasta according to package directions. Drain and place in a large bowl. Drizzle the rest of the olive oil into the pasta. Toss in the vegetables, as well as the shrimp and their buttery juices and serve with feta and basil.

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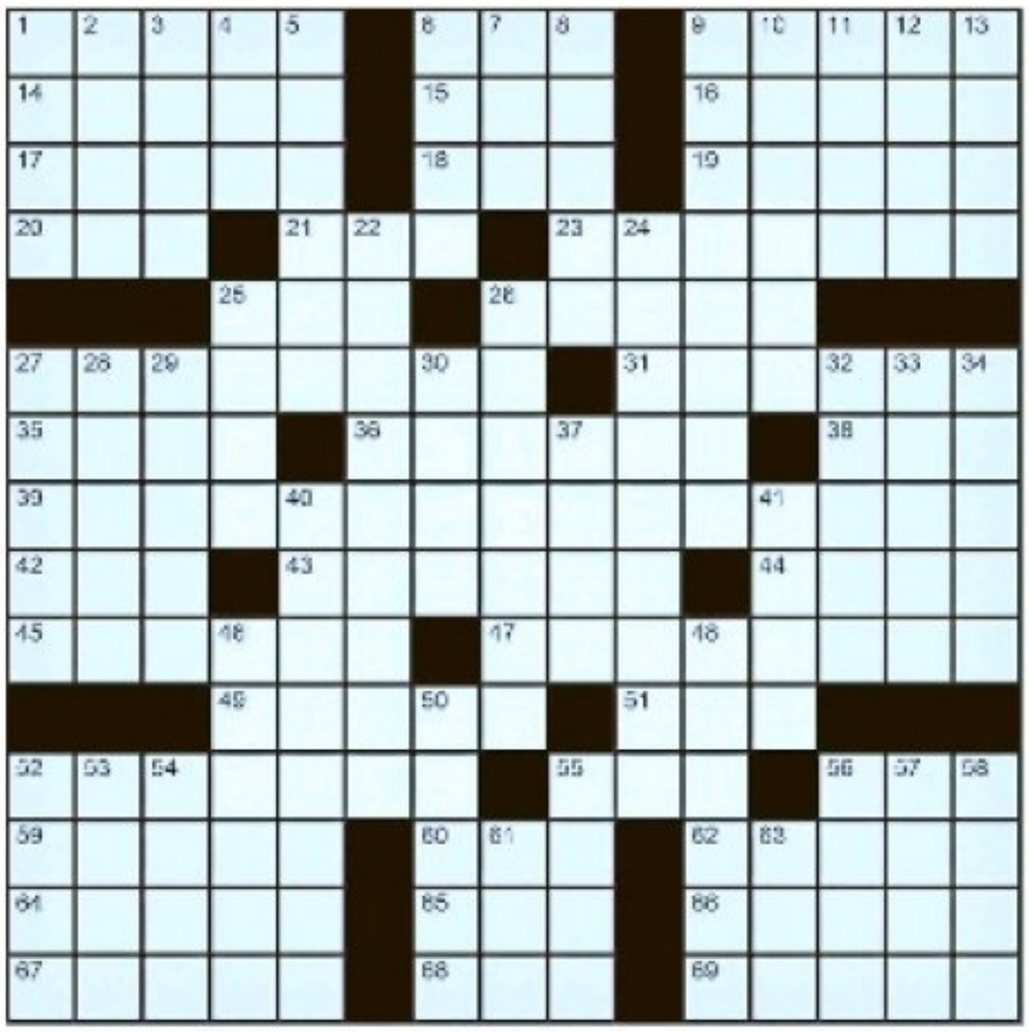
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Elizabeth of "Silent House" (2011)
6. _ constrictor
9. Michelangelo sculpture
14. Dance style, variantly
15. Hole-punching tool
16. Pertaining to sheep
17. Night-on-the-town venues
18. "The Fresh Prince of _-Air"
19. Honeydew _
20. June, Jul., _....
21. Caribbean music
23. Lofty/outstanding
25. ___ Systems (UK defence contractor)
26. Connecting/securing
27. Possible helpful way out, as of a problem
31. Ms. Miller of "Factory Girl" (2006)
35. Much: 2 wds.
36. Commercial area of Venice
38. Alley-_ (Basketball play)
39. Prince Charles' hereditary revenue-reaping-realm, established in 1337: 3 wds.
42. _ _ Z
43. Between 90 and 180 degrees, as per angles
44. Embellish
45. Save
47. Pick a Bosc from one: 2 wds.
49. Rich tapestry
51. NFL positions, e.g.
52. Seeks assistance: 2 wds.
55. Seer's skill, short-style
56. What person?
59. Skirt style
60. Critical
62. Egg-shaped
64. Donut or muffin alternative
65. Toronto's Danforth, e.g.
66. Enthusiastically exalted
67. Wolf down the food
68. "That's correct."
69. Salon lock

DOWN
1. Sea wolf
2. Humdinger
3. Super-pleased with oneself
4. Shrink
5. Bahamas capital
6. _ Wawa (Vintage SNL character)
7. Must money-up
8. Between-buildings spot
9. What Canada Day used to be called, _ Day
10. Get even/retaliate
11. Foul
12. Get _ _ the ground floor
13. Car fender damage
22. Town in western Saskatchewan with a built-in-1914 water tower (that resembles a lighthouse) that can be seen from miles away
24. Is cruel to
25. The two of them
26. Posh pieces of porcelain, perhaps
27. "_ Love" by Golden Earring
28. Rinse with a solvent
29. Fashion: Ms. Chanel's
30. Use a sieve
32. Lacking in oxygen means there's what practically?: 2 wds.
33. _ prosequi (Not proceeding, in law)
34. Black Eyed Peas member, _._.ap
37. Misplace
40. "Keep _ Alive" by Queen
41. Kilograms, e.g.
46. Mason Jars user, often
48. Official study
50. Hunky-dory
52. Pop can openings
53. _ Bator (Capital of Mongolia)
54. Capital of Latvia
55. "For Your _ Only" (1981)
56. Used a loom
57. "Get movin'!" commands
58. "Eat My Brain" Canadian band, The _
61. Hit album of 2002: '_-Olution'
63. Sort, shortly

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Something unexpected might occur at home today that shakes up your world. As a result, arguments with authority figures might occur. Pull in your reins and be diplomatic with everyone.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Your routine will be interrupted today, definitely. Give yourself extra time for wiggle room. If not, you might bark at someone because you are frustrated.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Keep an eye on your finances and cash flow today, because something unexpected will affect them. Avoid disputes about shared property, money and debt.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
This is a tricky day! Because something catches you off guard, you might be so frazzled that you end up having an argument with a friend or a partner. Chill out.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Something going on behind the scenes is unpredictable today. Feelings of uncertainty could make you impatient with others. Stay frosty.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Because someone might say or do something unusual, this could lead to a dispute, especially with a member of a group. For your own good, count to three before you respond.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Even though you're unhappy with a decision made by someone, avoid arguments with bosses, parents, teachers, VIPs and the police today. You will lose more ground than you gain.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Avoid controversial subjects like politics, religion and racial issues today, because they will become embroiled. Meanwhile, travel plans will be canceled or changed. Crazy day!

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Double-check your bank account, because something unexpected might be going on. Quarrels about shared property and debt might occur.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
This is a dicey day to deal with partners and close friends. Even if you practice patience, you might encounter conflicts with others.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Power struggles might arise with a coworker today. This could be due to equipment breakdowns, canceled meetings or something unexpected. Don't lose your cool. Be part of the solution, not the problem.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Parents will have to be patient with their kids today. Likewise, romantic partners need to be patient with each other, because today is full of intense energy!

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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2				7				
			5	3	6	4		
		9				6		7
	5	7				3	9	
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				2				1
			6				8	

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Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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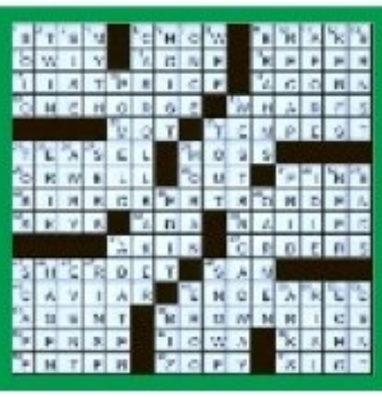

8	4	7	2	6	1	9	5	3
6	5	3	4	9	8	7	2	1
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1	7	4	9	8	2	3	6	5
5	3	8	6	1	4	2	9	7
4	9	6	8	3	5	1	7	2
7	8	5	1	2	6	4	3	9
3	2	1	7	4	9	5	8	6

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